



Monthly Accomplishments

October 2014

Fisheries Activities

In cooperation with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Andy Dean and Kjetil Henderson) completed post-fire monitoring and nonnative fish removal on Black Canyon Creek, Gila National Forest. In addition, they assisted Mora National Fish Hatchery with the stocking of age-0 (n=3167) and age-1+ (n=205) Gila trout of Main Diamond lineage into Black Canyon Creek.



Figure 1. Wild caught Gila trout from Black Canyon Creek.

Angela James assisted NMDGF and Arizona Game and Fish Department's Bubbling Ponds Native Fish Research Facility stock 650 young-of-year loach minnow in the San Francisco River near Glenwood, New Mexico. Angela and NMDGF also completed a site visit to Tularosa River. They completed a presence/absence survey for loach minnow. Tularosa River may be considered as a donor stream for additional loach

minnow to be incorporated into Bubbling Ponds existing broodstock.



Figure 2. Young-of-year loach minnow.

In collaboration with the Southern Ute Division of Wildlife Resource Management and the Jicarilla Game and Fish Department, staff conducted annual fall monitoring for roundtail chub in the Navajo River.

In cooperation with Pueblo of Isleta and Pueblo of Sandia, Thomas Archdeacon and Tristan Austring completed monthly monitoring for Rio Grande silvery minnow (RGSM). Monitoring determines presence/absence of visible implant elastomer tagged fish from augmentation and research efforts.

Thomas Sinclair, Thomas Archdeacon, Kjetil Henderson and Rebecca Cook assisted Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center with Visible Implant Elastomer (VIE) tagging of 100,000 RGSM.

These fish were stocked in the Albuquerque Reach of the Rio Grande in accordance with the RGSM Augmentation Plan. Additional tagging and stocking will occur in November 2014.



Figure 3. Rio Grande silvery minnow with VIE Tag.

Chris Kitcheyan and Dustin Myers assisted personnel from the Pueblo of Santa Ana Department of Natural Resources with triannual fish monitoring on the Rio Grande.

Stephen Davenport assisted staff from the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) with baseline fish community monitoring on the Rio Mora.

Stephen Davenport and Andy Dean completed Pecos River fish community monitoring at twelve sites near Roswell, New Mexico. Data from these monitoring efforts are used to define the status of the fish community, with emphasis on Pecos bluntnose shiner.

Angela James assisted NMDGF and University of New Mexico (UNM) with collection of lengths

and weights for the Colorado pikeminnow housed at NMFWCO for an ongoing isotopic fractionation study. The study intends to explain trophic relationships among Colorado pikeminnow and their potential prey in the San Juan River.



Figure 4. Colorado pikeminnow.

Meetings and Trainings

Stephen Davenport, New Mexico State University, Blue Earth Consultants, NMDGF, and New Mexico Ecological Services participated in a meeting concerning White Sands pupfish hosted by White Sands Missile Range. Participants discussed monitoring efforts of the White Sands pupfish and completed a site visit.

Education and Outreach

Angela James participated in the 2014 Water Festival sponsored by the City of Rio Rancho. Angela led a discussion on the water cycle and a hands-on activity called *The Incredible Journey*. The activity had students move through the water cycle as water molecules to demonstrate the complexity of the water cycle. During this two-

day event Angela worked with approximately 260 students from Bernalillo and Rio Rancho elementary schools.



Figure 5. Students going through the Incredible Journey activity.

Angela James participated in Educator Appreciation Event hosted by Valle de Oro NWR. The event provided educators with natural resource activities to incorporate into their classes. Angela provided a presentation on the Native Fish in the Classroom project.



Figure 6. Teacher collecting various materials available for the classroom.

Three Bosque School students assisted Angela James collect fish from the Rio Grande for the

2014-2015 Native Fish in the Classroom project. Species collected included red shiners, flathead chub, long nose dace, and fathead minnows. While students were helping with fish collections they were also learning how to seine, identify fish, identify microhabitats, and follow monitoring protocols for RGSM. The fish will be delivered to classrooms in January 2015.

Upcoming Activities

Activities and meetings currently scheduled are listed below.

November

3rd-7th: Cochiti Fish Passage Project

8th: NFIC Teacher Workshop

10th: RGSM Stocking

12-14: VIE Tagging of RGSM

14th-15th: New Mexico Science Teacher Association Conference

18th-19th: Pecos River Fish Community Monitoring

25th: Monthly RGSM Monitoring

December

2nd-5th: San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program – Biology Committee Meeting, Durango, Colorado

16th-17th: Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program – Nonnative Fish Workshop, Grand Junction, Colorado

18th: Gila Trout Recovery Team Meeting

TBD: NFIC Aquarium Delivery

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Southwest Region
Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation



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Current staff members

Thomas Sinclair	Project Leader
Jason Davis	Assistant Project Leader
Angela Carrillo.....	Administrative Officer
Kimberly Flowers.....	Office Assistant
Stephen Davenport	Supervisory Fish Biologist
Chris Kitcheyan	Supervisory Fish Biologist
Weston Furr	Fish Biologist
Thomas Archdeacon.....	Fish Biologist
Dustin Myers.....	Fish Biologist
Angela Palacios James.....	Fish Biologist
Bobby Duran	Fish Biologist
Andy Dean.....	Fish Biologist
Kjetil Henderson	Fish Biologist
Rebecca Cook.....	Fish Biologist
Ernest Teller Sr.	Biological Science Technician
Tristan Austring	STEP Student